

REMARKS

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite.

The Examiner questions the recitation of "...a diameter of the liquid..." in claim 6. Applicant has amended claim 6 to clarify that the diameter referred to is the diameter of the droplets of the liquid as shown in figure 2.B.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, and 8 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Noguchi et al. in view of Ikeda et al.

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Noguchi et al in view of Ikeda et al.

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Noguchi et al in view of Ikeda et al. further in view of Ito et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses all of these prior art rejections.

Noguchi et al., the primary reference relied upon in all of these rejections, issued on August 27, 2002, and was filed on July 26, 1999. The present application claims priority to applications filed in Japan on November 18, 26, and 27, 1998. The claim to foreign priority was made in the parent of the present application and a certified copy of the priority filing was also presented. The Examiner acknowledged receipt of both the official action mailed on August 3, 2001, in application 08/442,869. Enclosed herewith is a English language translation of the Japanese priority application 2000-141864.

It is believed that applicant has complied with all of the requirements to perfect their claim to a priority date. This priority date is prior to the effective date of Noguchi et al. Hence,

Noguchi et al. is not prior art to the present application. All of the Examiner's rejections based on Noguchi et al. should be withdrawn by the Examiner.

Further, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. No new material has been added thereto.

It is believed that all of the present claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned at (212) 801-2146. The undersigned may also be contacted by e-mail at rzucidloe@gtlaw.com.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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